

Constitutional Officers

There are eight statewide Constitutional Officers: the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Controller, State Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. These officers are all elected at the same time in a General Election and may be re-elected to a maximum of two four-year terms.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor shall become Governor. In the event of a vacancy in both the offices of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor, the succession order is as follows: first, the last duly elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate; second, the last duly elected Speaker of the Assembly; third, the Secretary of State; fourth, the Attorney General; fifth, the State Treasurer; and lastly, the State Controller.

GOVERNOR

Arnold Schwarzenegger

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The supreme executive power of the State of California is vested in the Governor, whose duty it is to see that the law is faithfully executed.

The Governor is the Commander-in-Chief of this state's militia. The Governor is the official communicator among this state's government, the federal government, and other states of the United States. The Governor supervises the official conduct of all executive and ministerial officers, and the Governor sees that all offices are filled and their duties performed.

The Governor's appointment power extends over significant areas of state government. First, the Governor has authority to fill vacancies in the judiciary (i.e. Municipal, Superior, Appeals, and Supreme Courts), and to fill newly created judgeships. Second, the Governor has the power, subject to confirmation by the State Senate, to appoint a large number of positions throughout the executive department.

The Governor communicates, during each calendar year, with the Legislature regarding the condition of the state and makes recommendations. The Governor submits an itemized budget to the Legislature within the first 10 days of each year.

The Governor may veto any bill passed by the Legislature and return it, with his objections to the house of origin. The Governor may also reduce or eliminate one or more items of appropriation while approving other portions of a bill.

The Governor utilizes, in addition to immediate staff, a cabinet that is composed of the ten major state agency secretaries (i.e., Business, Transportation and Housing; Corrections and Rehabilitation; Environmental Protection; Food and Agriculture; Health and Human Services; Labor and Workforce Development; Resources; State and Consumer Services; and Veterans Affairs), plus the Director of Finance and Secretary of Education.

This group serves as the Governor's chief policy advisory body and, in their individual capacities, each implement and coordinates the Governor's policies throughout the state.

The Cabinet supplies the Governor with a comprehensive view and current resume of the state operations and serves as a source for long-range planning.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

John Garamendi

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The Constitution provides that the Lieutenant Governor shall become Governor in the event of a vacancy. The Lieutenant Governor shall serve as acting Governor in the event of the Governor's absence from the state, temporary disability or impeachment. The Constitution also provides that the Lieutenant Governor shall be President of the Senate, but that he shall have only a casting vote. The purpose of a casting vote is to break a tie. The casting vote may be used only if it will provide the necessary majority required.

The Lieutenant Governor serves in an ex-officio capacity as a voting member of the University of California's Board of Regents and as a voting member of the California State University's Board of Trustees. He serves, and rotates with, the State Controller as chair of the State Lands Commission. The Lieutenant Governor also chairs the California Commission for Economic Development.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Debra Bowen

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The Secretary of State is the chief elections officer of the State, responsible for overseeing and certifying elections, as well as testing and certifying voting equipment for use in California. She administers election laws; maintains a database of registered voters; certifies the official lists of candidates for each election; certifies initiatives for placement on the state ballot; publishes the Voter Information Guide before each statewide election; compiles election returns; publishes the official Statement of Vote; and certifies election results.

The Secretary of State plays a key role in making government open and accessible by providing public access to a wide range of corporate, Uniform Commercial Code, campaign finance, lobbying, and election records. The Secretary maintains online editions of the California Lobbyist Directory and the California Roster of federal, state and local government officials.

The Secretary of State's California Business Portal provides online information, resources, and services to businesses. The Secretary receives, examines, and approves articles of incorporation for new California corporations and qualifies out-of-state and international corporations to do business in California. The Secretary's Business Programs Division also approves amendments to the records of domestic or qualified foreign corporations and registers trademarks, trade names, service marks and fictitious names. The Secretary is responsible for appointing and commissioning notaries public and oaths of office for non-civil service officers and employees.

The Secretary of State maintains the Domestic Partnership Registry, the Advance Health Care Directive Registry, and the Safe at Home program. Safe at Home's confidential mail forwarding program helps protect the identities of survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking victims, as well as those who work with reproductive health care clinics.

The Secretary of State keeps the complete record of the official acts of the Legislature and Executive Departments of the state government. The Secretary is charged with the custody of the enrolled copy of the Constitution, all acts and resolutions passed by the Legislature, the Journals of each house, the Great Seal of California, and all books, records, deeds, parchments, maps and papers kept or deposited in the office pursuant to law. As custodian of the public archives, the Secretary maintains and properly equips safe and secure vaults for the preservation of the documents placed in her charge. The Secretary of State affixes the Great Seal, with her attestation, to commissions, pardons and other public documents that require the Governor's signature.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Edmund G. Brown Jr.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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The Attorney General is charged with uniformly and equally enforcing California's laws, and assists district attorneys, local law enforcement, and federal and international criminal justice agencies in the administration of justice.

The Attorney General carries out his constitutional responsibilities through the programs of the Department of Justice. The Department's legal programs represent the People in civil and criminal matters before trial, appellate and the supreme courts of California and the United States. In representing the People, the Attorney General protects Californians from fraudulent, unfair, and illegal activities that victimize consumers or threaten public safety, and enforces laws that safeguard the environment and natural resources. The Attorney General also serves as legal counsel to state officers and, with a few exceptions, to state agencies, boards and commissions. The Department's legal programs maintain major law offices in Sacramento, Fresno, San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles and San Diego.

The Department's Division of Law Enforcement provides forensic services, narcotic investigations, as well as criminal investigations, intelligence, and training. The Division of California Justice Information Services facilitates the exchange of accurate, timely, and complete criminal justice intelligence using state-of-the-art computer technology.

STATE CONTROLLER

John Chiang

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The State Controller is the chief financial officer of the state. The State Controller's primary duties are to: (1) provide sound fiscal control over both receipts and disbursements of public funds; (2) report periodically on the financial operations and condition of both state and local governments; (3) make certain money due to the state is collected through fair, equitable and effective tax administration; (4) provide fiscal guidance to local governments; (5) administer the Unclaimed Property and Property Tax Postponement Programs; and (6) develop and establish policy for a significant number of boards and commissions, including all major tax boards.

No money can be drawn from the Treasury unless it is against an appropriation made by law, and upon warrants duly drawn by the State Controller. The State Controller supervises the fiscal affairs of the state, suggests plans for the improvement and management of public revenues, keeps all accounts in which the state is interested, and keeps a separate account of each specific appropriation, showing at all times the balance of the appropriation.

The State Controller supervises the state's fiscal concerns and audits all claims against it. The State Controller directs the collections of all monies due the state, and if necessary, is authorized to go to court to recover the property or money owed. The State Controller has general supervision over the general procedure for tax sales, tax deeds, and redemptions, and makes necessary rules and regulations relating to fiscal affairs under his control.

STATE TREASURER

Bill Lockyer

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The State Treasurer is the state's banker, investor, and lead asset manager. The State Treasurer administers the State's Pooled Money Investment and Local Agency Investment Programs; provides the trust services for state-owned securities and safekeeping for state assets; administers the sale of state bonds; administers the clearing and accounting services of checks and warrants; finances a variety of public works such as those for schools and higher education facilities, transportation projects, parks, and environmental projects; chairs authorities that finance projects such as those for pollution clean-up, small businesses, and health care facilities; chairs the California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission, the Debt Limit Allocation Committee, and Tax Credit Allocation Committee; is a member of California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS) boards and the California Housing Finance Agency; oversees the Scholarshare Investment Board, which administers the state's tax-advantaged college tuition savings plan.

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

Steve Poizner

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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Web Site: www.insurance.ca.gov

Insurance is a \$106 billion-a-year industry in California. Overseeing the industry and protecting the State's insurance consumers are the primary responsibilities of the California Department of Insurance (CDI). The CDI regulates, investigates and audits insurance business to ensure that companies remain solvent and meet their obligations to insurance policyholders.

As administrator of the CDI, the Insurance Commissioner enforces the laws of the California Insurance Code and promulgates regulations to implement these laws.

The Insurance Commissioner issues certificates of authority to insurance and title companies seeking admittance into the California market; and licenses agents, brokers, solicitors and bail bond agents domiciled in the state.

CDI's statewide toll-free hotline serves as an information clearinghouse for consumers with insurance-related questions or problems. The unit, staffed by insurance experts, provides immediate assistance to callers whenever possible.

The CDI responds to thousands of consumer "Request for Assistance" complaints received each month. Acting on these requests, the Department protects consumers by investigating and prosecuting companies and licensees accused of insurance code violations, including fraud.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION **Jack O'Connell** **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is the only nonpartisan of the eight statewide constitutional officers in California. The Superintendent is accountable to the people of California for administering and enforcing education law and regulations, and for continuing to reform and improve public elementary and secondary school programs, adult education, and some preschool and child care programs.

The Superintendent is the executive officer and secretary of the State Board of Education and the director of the California Department of Education (CDE). CDE administers California's public education system at the state level. The Superintendent administers the day-to-day operation of CDE and also is responsible for two schools for the deaf, one school for the blind, and three diagnostic centers for neurologically disabled pupils.

In addition to serving as an ex officio member of the University of California Board of Regents, the Superintendent serves as an ex officio member of the California State University and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing boards of trustees. The Superintendent also serves as an ex officio member or has representation on more than 100 boards, commissions, and committees established by the Department, the Legislature, or the Executive Branch.

STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION **Ramon J. Hirsig, Executive Director**

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Created in 1879 by a constitutional amendment, the Board of Equalization administers sales and use taxes, special taxes, the State's tax appellate program, and oversees the property tax assessment. In 2005-06, taxes and fees administered by the Board yielded nearly \$53 billion to provide essential services for the people of California.

The Board's four regional members are elected at the same time and in the same manner as the statewide constitutional officers. The fifth member is the State Controller, who serves in an ex-officio capacity.

Betty T. Yee, District 1, Chair

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